

# VILLAGE OF BOLIVAR

## COUNCIL MEETING

**FEBRUARY 3, 2020**

The Bolivar Village Council met in regular session on **Monday, February 3, 2020**. The meeting was called to order by the Mayor at 7:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Lloyd opened the meeting with a prayer. Gettan, Lang, Lawver, Lloyd, Oberlin and Vincent all answered to roll call.

Lloyd moved, seconded by Lang, to accept the previous meeting minutes. In a roll call vote, all members present voted yes.

The Fiscal Officer read the bills for the month of **January which totaled \$111,882.33**. Gettan moved, seconded by Vincent, to approve the bills. In a roll call vote, all members present voted yes.

There were no corrections or additions to the agenda.

### **PUBLIC SPEAKS –**

**Amanda Miller, County Prosecutor was in attendance.** She has been a prosecutor for ten years; previously a public defender. She has been practicing law in Tuscarawas County for fifteen years. She and her husband live on their second generation family farm. Her daughter is graduating with her undergrad in May. Amanda announced she is running for Juvenile Probate Court Judge; she has been in that court for twelve years in addition to adult felony court. "We have so many changes we need to make. Things are really bad". On the adult side, we had over 535 felonies last year; which was record breaking. As of the first week in February, "We are already on track to break that record this year".

The number of juveniles who have reached the age of eighteen and seamlessly moved to the adult felony court; the number has grown every year. "We are not doing the best that we can do in the juvenile court". Miller added, "I'm not here to just tell you I'm great and you should vote for me; what I'm here to tell you about actually is business. I'm going to all the townships and cities to talk about a program. If elected, I want to begin laying the groundwork for it and that's a juvenile work program. Years ago we had a juvenile work program where kids went out and did projects, picked up litter and other traditional things when you think about a work crew. That went away about ten years ago. Now all we have is one program that is four hours, twice per month. There are only about ten to twelve kids that are actually able to participate in that program. We can't send the bad kids to that program because it's not safe.

"I raised our daughter on a dairy farm; when she got in trouble she had to shovel manure. She didn't get in trouble very often, at least not for the same thing. My husband and I have been 4-H Volunteers; my daughter grew up in 4-H. My husband has been on the Fair Board. I think if anybody is involved in a program like that, or Scouts, you know when kids have something constructive to do, they don't get in trouble; they get a work ethic and they get life skills. That is really a foundational missing piece that I have seen in Juvenile Court. We have kids who go to school then have nothing else to do; and they get in trouble". There are kids who have parents that are on drugs; or who aren't good role models who do not have employment; who are missing those vital life skills.

One of the programs I want to create is a work program where I have kids working six days a week; Monday through Saturday. Maybe in the afternoons; maybe during the day, but they are working. They would be working with the villages, townships and non-profits to provide services that we actually need around town". Miller referenced ideas such as a property that may need cleaned up; or help with the Strawberry Festival. She assured she wouldn't be unleashing juvenile delinquents on the village to put to work. She clarified, "I would have a staff that would supervise them and coordinate what kind of projects they could do. It would be our responsibility to watch them and make sure they do this. I firmly believe, anybody that breaks the law and has

a debt to pay to society, I don't care how old you are. That's one of the reasons why I'm trying to hit all of the townships and villages to say, 'If I'm elected, I'm warning you, I'm coming'."

In closing, Amanda stated if anyone has anyone questions, they can reach her at the prosecutor's office. She proceeded to thank Council for having her speak.

**MAYOR** – Announced she attended the Mayor's Association meeting last week; they meet the last Tuesday of each month. One of the topics of conversation was the Census. As everyone knows, we are to be counted this year. Your count is very valuable. The Census counts every person living in the United States; once and only once. It's about redistricting. The Mayor added this is a big thing; it's how we get our money. Its how funding is funneled down to us. It's a big thing we had to face when we went for grants. The more you have, the more you can get. The Mayor wanted to make sure everyone in our Village knows that as it's very important.

- The Mayor proceeded to overview the 2020 Census Key Milestone information:
- March 12-20; an invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census
- March 16 - 24; a reminder letter will be sent
- March 26 - April 3; a reminder postcard will go out
- April 1; every 10 years, we observe Census day on April 1. The Census Bureau 'interactive map' will be available from April 1 through May 2020 to view real time counts in your area.
- April 8 - 16; a reminder letter and paper questionnaire
- April 20-27; a final reminder postcard before an in-person follow up
- June 2020 - July 2020; Census takers go door to door to count people who have not responded to the 2020 Census. Census takers are Census Bureau employees and will provide proof that they are official government personnel.
- December 31, 2020; by this date, as required by law, the Census Bureau reports to the President of the United States the population count and the apportionment of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives to each state.
- 2021: Initial 2020 Census data are made available to the public on census.gov

The U.S. Census Bureau is hiring workers to assist in the 2020 Census. They will pay between \$15.00-\$30.00 per hour to go door to door. The Mayor continued to list the library locations where applicants can apply. In addition, those interested can go to [2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs).

The Mayor was happy to announce they had their first official Bolivar Main Street meeting today. As everyone knows, we lost Mr. Lebold; he was a big part of that. At this point, we are figuring out what we are going to do going forward. "Area business owners, concerned residents, councilmen and leaders in our community met today to restructure. Our plans are to have Strawberry Festival June 18, 19 and 20 so please put this on your calendar. Bob Smith of Lebold Smith Funeral Home was elected President and Justin Wallace of Wallace & Associates was name Vice President. Secretary/Treasurer is Jessica Conley, Bolivar Branch Librarian, Strawberry Festival Chairman will be Megan Gettan and Vice Chairman is Mayor Rebecca Hubble. More committees were semi-established and will be listed at our next meeting that will take place on Monday, February 17; 7pm at Sublime Smoke. Any persons interested in being a part of Main Street should try to attend. Looking forward to a great year.

**FINANCE** – Lawver reported the Star Ohio interest for the month of January was \$603.06 compared to \$4.49 Huntington interest.

Lawver brought forth **An ORDINANCE to make annual appropriations for Current Expenses and other Expenditures of the Village of Bolivar, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2020.** Lawver moved, seconded by Gettan to suspend the rules. In a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. Lawver moved, seconded by Gettan to approve **ORDINANCE O-7-2020** as an emergency. In a roll call vote, all members present voted yes.

Lawver brought forth a past due electric bill for the Santa Claus house the Village recently inherited from the Main Street Association. The Mayor clarified, the Santa Claus House is actually owned by the Village of Bolivar. Over the years, Main Street had paid the bill, however, moving forward she is requesting the Village pay this bill moving forward. Lawver moved, seconded by Gettan to approve paying the past due electric bill in the amount of \$93.32 and for the Village to assume future bills. In a roll call vote, all members present voted yes.

Lawver reported there will be a new council OML (Ohio Municipal League) training on Saturday, April 4, 2020 in Independence, Ohio at a rate of \$75.00 per person. As of now, there are two attending; possibly a third person. Lawver moved, seconded by Gettan to approve 2-3 council members to attend the OML training. In a roll call vote, all members present voted yes.

Lawver moved, seconded by Gettan to approve the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to attend the annual Ohio Auditor of State Local Government Services Conference in Columbus April 7-9. The registration fee is still unknown but typically 200-250.00 per person. The hotel for two nights is 328.00 plus parking; RT mileage expense is 146.05 along with a daily food allowance up to \$30.00 per day. In a roll call vote, all members present voted yes.

Lawver announced Council Member Lang applied for a grant for a crosswalk sign. The Village should receive funding in March. Lang stated it's a solar powered, flashing sign for the crosswalk at the corner of Park and Poplar Street.

The Solicitor presented **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE VILLAGE OF BOLIVAR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF BOLIVAR, OHIO AND ALLEN KEITH CONSTRUCTION FOR IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT EVIDENCE ROOM.** The Solicitor asked if this was going to be a first reading or pass as an emergency tonight. Lawver asked about the timeframe. The Mayor said if it goes to three readings, it would take three months plus thirty (30) days thereafter to pass. Gettan moved, seconded by Lawver to suspend the rules. In a roll call vote all members voted yes. Lawver moved, seconded by Gettan to approve \$9,748.66 as **ORDINANCE O-8-2020 as an emergency.** In a roll call vote, all members present voted yes.

The Mayor said Council still needs to determine what they plan to do with raises. It would need passed as an emergency if they want it to take effect immediately. The Solicitor stated she has two ordinances ready; one for 0.25 and the other for 0.50. She said they are both ready to go but Council needs to decide which one they want. Tara added, at the last meeting Council was going to review the caps and minimums and come up with some direction for her. Gettan said Council is still working on the caps and minimums but they are ready to move forward with raises for this year.

Gettan moved, seconded by Lang to suspend the rules. In a roll call vote, Gettan, Lang, Lloyd and Vincent voted yes; Lawver and Oberlin voted no. App stated Council will not be able to pass as an emergency since they didn't have 5 out of 6 votes. Tara said she will still need an amount for the reading. Lang said 0.25. The Solicitor stated by the time we get to a 3rd reading, the amount will need pinned down. This will be a first reading by title only.

The Mayor made the recommendation to refer caps and minimums back to committee as she doesn't feel Council is ready to move forward with anything at this time.

**PLANNING-** Gettan reported they did not have a meeting in January. The next scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 5:30pm.

**SAFETY** - Lloyd thanked Lang for filling out the grant application. Safety also discussed possibly coming up with some other signage for the post office to make the parking more convenient by changing it to 10 minutes instead of 15 minutes. The possibility of painting the blacktop is still up for discussion.

**CHIEF-** absent (at records training for evidence rooms)

**STREET & ALLEY** – The main issue we discussed was the parking on Canal Street. We had business owners attend, highlighting things to fix the parking issue. Moving forward, we are going to place signs at both ends of the new parking behind the Towpath Tavern and Canal Street Diner. The suggestion was made to make Water Street one-way coming off of Park

Avenue, down to Canal. This was referred to Zoning to discuss; make a recommendation and refer back to Council.

**STREET SUPERINTENDENT-** Franks said along that line, the committee talked about widening Tuscarawas from Canal to Sassafras Alley. He said he has gotten some quotes to bring to street & alley; the second company showed up today (Feb 3).

Franks added, some residents came in today; this is a mix of zoning and street. In our zoning book we have an objectionable element and condition of property section. Franks said we have a house at 164 N. Canal; he has looked at it as well as the Mayor. Franks took some pictures; "We have a mess. We have couches, we have trash on a trailer; it is a mess". Franks went on to state that numerous letters have been sent about the mowing; that he (the owner) likes his lawn to get about two foot high before he mows his grass. Franks recommends having the Solicitor send this gentlemen a letter stating he has to clean up his property. If the Village has to clean it up, we would have to charge him accordingly to clean that up. "I have pictures and will get with Maria tomorrow; maybe she can download them and forward to Tara". Franks stated the gentlemen rents the property; maybe he doesn't know what it looks like.

Franks said they will be talking a lot in zoning on Thursday. For those interested, he suggested coming to zoning as he has a lot to bring up.

**SHADE TREE** – Franks said he had a gentlemen come down who has a maple tree at his driveway that is in the curb strip. The top of it is dying off. Franks stated he has two quotes and will bring that to committee then to council next month.

**RECREATION** – Gettan stated they met but there was nothing to report at this time.

Before moving forward, the Solicitor wanted to clarify with Council whether they approved of her sending a letter to the resident on Canal Street.

**FISCAL OFFICER/ADMINISTRATOR** - App asked if Council wanted to approve the signage. Lang stated they would like to replace the antique sign next to the Cherry Street parking with a Bolivar Village Public Parking sign. The committee recommends going forward with Webster Custom Signs. They gave us a quote for \$530.00 including install. Lang moved, seconded by Gettan to approve the purchase and replace the sign. In a roll call vote, all members present voted yes.

Lang stated, at the other end next to the Towpath Tavern, we would like to put up signage we already have by using two (2) decorative plastic posts for mounting the sign at a cost of \$238.00 each. Lang moved, seconded by Vincent to purchase those posts for the Street Superintendent to install. In a roll call vote, all members present voted yes.

App said she had two things. "I would like to extend a very special Happy Birthday to one of our residents, George Rootring. He will be turning 90 on February 15. I had the honor of joining him, his family and friends for his 89 1/2 birthday celebration this past August. He and his lovely life Lynn have been long term residents of the Village. If you know them or ever met them before; they are class act. Happy Birthday to George!"

App went on to commend George for his phenomenal artistic talent. App passed around a sketch and stated, "George presented this to me in December". She went on to state that George started taking up art over a year ago which is his hobby. App added that George brought in a portfolio that had different sketches. Huntington Bank also has one of George's sketches (of their bank); if anyone wants to check it out, it's in clear view behind their counter.

Birthday wishes were also extended to Bruce Lawver for his upcoming birthday as well as Lori Feeney; reporter with the Bargain Hunter.

App stated in closing that she just wanted to recognize George. "There are three people in my life (older gentlemen) that I have the highest respect for; my dad number one; George Rootring and Calvin Battle.

#### **LAW DIRECTOR –**

The Solicitor presented a third reading by title only for an **Ordinance amending the Village of Bolivar's Municipal Income Tax Code**. As stated previously, the General Assembly just

modified language further identifying the definition for pension and retirement benefit plan. We need to modify and add that language into the Villages tax code. Lang moved, seconded by Gettan to approve as **ORDINANCE O-9-2020**.

Next on the agenda was a second reading by title only **ADOPTING THE AMENDED RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING ZONING IN THE VILLAGE OF BOLIVAR**. Lang stated, "Considering there was no change". The Mayor said the language needed clarified. The Solicitor reiterated this is just by title only. "What you will see at the next meeting, the third reading, will be to clarify the language about any off-street parking. You will see that specifically to be able to vote on it".

The Solicitor presented a first reading by title only amending the records retention policy for the Village of Bolivar. This is for records and how long you have to keep or store them.

Lastly, the Solicitor presented a **first reading to ADOPT THE NEW INVESTMENT POLICY FOR THE VILLAGE OF BOLIVAR**.

Gettan suggested a special finance work session to discuss caps & minimums and raises. The Mayor stated on the 17th there are already two meetings scheduled; one at 5:30 then the other meeting at 7:00 (Main Street). Gettan asked about the 10th. Lang stated he's not available on the 10th. Due to schedule conflicts, it was concluded to continue discussions during the next meeting in March. Oberlin asked if it could be postponed. Lawver asked about the risk management report. The Mayor said they could set a date at the next Council meeting and encouraged Council to keep a date in mind. This is something that will need to be broken down into sections.

Gettan moved, seconded by Lang to adjourn until the next regularly scheduled council meeting on March 2, 2020. In a roll call vote, all member present voted yes.

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Mayor Rebecca S. Hubble

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ATTEST: Maria A. App, Fiscal Officer

**Approved:** March 2, 2020